

Gopalakrishna Adiga, one of the most radical poets of the Navya period, was moved to the background with the passage of time.

To revive the poetry of the late modernist poet, a two-day seminar begins today. SUMATHEENDRA NADIG does a rerun on the poet.



Nissim Ezekiel called Gopalakrishna Adiga the greatest Indian poet of the 20th Century.

Adiga makes a comeback

the Hindu

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ADIGA, WHO mocked Kuvempu, Bendre, and K.S. Narasimha Swamy, attracted a host of young poets such as Ramachandra Sharma, Gadghara Chittal, U.R. Anantha Murthy, G.S. Shivarudrap-Lankesh, Tejaswi, and the whole lot of them. A poet with the most modernist of outlooks, Adiga gave a new idiom and rhythm to poetry, 1950 onwards. In fact, Nissim Ezekiel considered him the greatest Indian poet of the 20th Century. But in the 1980s, things changed. His voice was muffled and drowned by a deluge of books, abuses, slogans, and glamour.

When Adiga's poetry first came into the public, his thundering voice reverberated throughout the Kannada sky. It drew attention to itself by the use of suggestive images from contemporary life. The imagery was no more rural it was urban. It was not lyrical, dramatic. Though it caught the imagination of the readers, it was found to be difficult and mindboggling. And the effect of poetry is well described by Allen Ginsberg, the beatnik American poet, who read Adiga in translation (by Sumatheendra Nadig): "Adiga's poems show flexibility of mind and modernity means — they look as lively as mentally aware as any contemporary India poetry in translation I've read — and that is a great deal that I've read in translations (yours) seem to be sitting at the desk and

ing, I realised myself as a western, reading text with precise local Indian reference. Ginsberg's experience could have been the experience of many Kannada readers too.

Forgotten

The great Indian poet Adiga, whose poems had been read in the Indian Festival in America by people such as Ayyappa Panikar, Adil Jussawala and others, had been forgotten for sometime. But the two-day seminar at Surana College in collaboration with Sahitya Akademi, on October 1 and 2, hopes to revive the poet for us.

Adiga could have written excellent poems in Indian English. But his faith in the power of the mother tongue was unshakeable. When he was asked to comment on Indo-Anglian Poetry he had said: "Our Indo-Anglian writers have written a lot of poetry, but I have no respect for it. None of them have been able to write any significant poetry. Indians cannot understand the real inner nature of English because we have not grown up in it; our writing in English is only a manifestation of our upper layers." Adiga believed that great poetry can only be written in the mother tongue. And that has been the experience of Kannada poets such as Kuvempu and Bendre too.

Here is the only poem that Adiga wrote in English on Rabindranath Tagore whose poems he disliked reading in

translation. This poem for sure illustrates what Ginsberg called "the swiftness and sexual honesty of the imagery of the fresh mind of the poet."

I hugged you once as a thin pallid cloud,

content to expend the seed in night pollutions of misty drops

that burden the leaves and grass.

Frigid as old maids in spotless white,

ashamed to undress in light.

Too pure to pestle with rod-like showers

earth holes itching in heat.

Adolescent on stilts, parader in public,

in brocade and lace and beard,

seeking a stave from gossamer-horizons,

and ripples that lap and lick, and the wind that sighs in bamboo-copse,

and shades in noontide rings: Wrapped in skin-tight silken sounds

bestrode the mystic broom.

I salute you, a solemn ghost, haunting my childhood corners:

Breeder of a host of ghosts in miniature

flaunting a dozen tongues:

Worn-out dreams have a knack to reappear

and restore the morning snare.

(Gopalakrishna Adiga — Sanmskriti Anusandhana,

Vichara Kammata, October 1 and 2, Surana College, Nittoor

ru Srinivas Rau Road, 10 a.m.)

● **The Office**

(STAR World, Saturday, 22.30)

In "New Girl," David interviews for a new secretary and chooses blonde Karen. His efforts to impress end spectacularly badly when he accidentally headbutts her. Meanwhile Donna's late arrival at work inevitably sparks the rumour that she is sleeping with a colleague.

● **Stark Raving Mad**

(STAR World, Sunday, 19.00)

In "Secrets and Lies," when a reporter discovers an unaccounted for period in Ian's personal history, Henry grows upset when Ian did not confide in him about his whereabouts during the missing years.

● **That '70s Show**

(STAR World, Monday, 20.00)

In "We're not Gonna Take

family any longer, but her transformation into a good cop turns the household upside down.

● **Yes, Dear**

(STAR World, Monday, 21.00)

In "Johnny Ampleseed," Greg's high school girlfriend asks him to be a sperm donor so she can have a baby.

● **Becker**

(STAR World, Monday, 21.30)

In "The Trouble with Harry," John has his hands full when a former patient dies and leaves him his ashes, and a current patient suffers a puzzling rapid heartbeat. Elsewhere, Reggie turns a blind eye to her handsome new boyfriend's glaring flaws.

● **Boston Public**

(STAR World, Monday, 22.00)

In "Chapter Sixty-One," teachers and students protest when Ronnie outlines her plan for improving test scores; J. T. asks Aisha to marry him; Hanson learns that his sister plans on leaving the Boston area; Lipschultz must pass a certification test.

● **John Doe**

(STAR World, Tuesday, 20.00)

In "Ashes to Ashes," Doe suffers intense guilt when he escapes a bombing attempt but allows Karen to be kidnapped.

● **UC: Undercover**

(STAR World, Tuesday, 21.00)

In "Honour among Thieves," the U.C. team thwarts the sale of priceless gems stolen from the Smithsonian; Jake fears reprisal from Sonny, who has escaped from prison, and Quito Real, a drug dealer he also betrayed.

● **Ed**

(STAR World, Wednesday, 20.00)

In "Your Life is Now," Ed has an old score to settle with Carol's high-school beau. The bowling-alley lawyer also fights a frosty lawsuit and helps Warren charm a cheerleader.

● **Smallville**

(STAR World, Thursday, 20.00)

In "Rogue," on his way back from viewing an art exhibition in the city, Clark stops an out-of-control bus from hitting a homeless man. His heroics are witnessed by a crooked lawyer, who tracks down the



"Stark Raving Mad" on STAR World, Sunday, 19.00.

it," when Eric loses his job at the dog food factory, he has to compete with Kelso for a waiter's job at the restaurant where Hyde works. And Fez and Laurie are about to file for divorce until the wedding presents start coming in.

● **Still Standing**

(STAR World, Monday, 20.30)

In "Still Good Cop," Judy de-



"Rendezvous with Simi Garewal — Nawab Pataudi" on STAR World, Sunday, 20.30.

"Rivals: Ca

Smallville teen and make an offer he cannot refuse. form illicit tasks for the face exposure. But Clark so eager to capitulate. where, Lex's love life he when an old flame breezes town and asks him to recer his current position in ther's company.

● **Hell Freezes Over**

(STAR World, Thursday,

The long-defunct, So California band regroup an album, an expensive and this televised special, features the Eagles in peance.

Laid-back but sharp and stirring during a longish tic set, the guys quickly g the nostalgia element sound truly viable. They make it look easy; the si Joe Walsh wearing glasses sitting in almost perfect as he effortlessly colour hits "Tequila Sunrise" an

MOVIES (ENGLISH)

● **Infernal Affairs**

(STAR Movies, Friday, 21.00)